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ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2017-18 BUSH FIRE SEASON

Dear visiting schools,

I am writing to let you know about arrangements for our school for the current bush fire season. Our school has been identified as a school at increased risk if a bush fire were to break out on a day when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education has determined that on days when a **Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating** is issued for our area, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place. This is based on information obtained through a bush fire assessment of our school arranged by the department. We may also be required to cease operations on **Extreme** days, based on local conditions. A Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bush fire season, if at all. To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

- Schools will be notified at 4:30pm the afternoon prior to the excursion, if Wambangalang EEC needs to temporarily cease operations on site the next day.
- School excursion/camp will be rescheduled/ cancelled in the event of pre-notification of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating Day.
- In the event that the school is already on site as part of a camp, when a notification for Catastrophic Fire Rating Day is received for the following day, the school will be evacuated. WEEC staff will work with visiting teachers to advise your school's Principal about the course of action and appropriate arrangements to ensure students are able to be collected.
- We strongly encourage all schools visiting during Term 1 and Term 4 to have a bus on site at all times, in case of an emergency situation. For overnight groups staying on a day/s when High or above Danger Ratings are issued, a bus will be required to stay overnight

As the school will only receive notification of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued, please ensure that you have provided the school with up to date home or after hours contact details for the contact teacher and the Principal. We also require a class roll to be completed.

Information for parents and carers provided by the department about these arrangements is attached. Up to date bush fire information will also be available to you on the department's bush fire safety website. The link for this site is: <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-at-det/bushfire-safety>.

Please contact the school on 02 6887 7209 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kristy Robberts
Principal

Wambangalang EEC